Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (original) A method for inputting control information into a household appliance, which comprises:

performing a biometric fingerprint recognition of a respective user with a biometric fingerprint recognition device of a household appliance;

assigning the user to one of several authorization levels based on the biometric fingerprint recognition; and

enabling at least one of a predetermined minimum range of functions and a predetermined minimum range of setting options of the appliance when at least one of a biometric recognition failure occurs and operation by an unknown user occurs.

Claim 2. (canceled).

Claim 3. (original) The method according to claim 1, which further comprises storing an item of individual supplementary information in the appliance for each user.

Claim 4. (original) The method according to claim 1, which further comprises assigning an item of supplementary information to each authorization level.

Claim 5. (original) The method according to claim 1, which further comprises activating supplementary information in the form of individual settings dependent upon a recognition of the user's fingerprint.

Claim 6. (original) The method according to claim 5, which further comprises activating supplementary information by the fingerprint as a deviation from defaults for functions in different authorization levels.

Claim 7. (original) The method according to claim 1, which further comprises granting children at least one of minimal user authorization and minimal setting authorization upon biometric recognition of a respective child's fingerprint.

Claim 8. (original) The method according to claim 7, which further comprises: providing a light with the appliance; and authorizing children to turn on the light as the minimal user authorization.

Claim 9. (original) The method according to claim 7, which further comprises: providing a stove as the appliance; and authorizing children to at least one of turn on the light of the stove and to activate a temperature of the stove suitable for reheating prepared foods as the minimal user authorization.

Claim 10. (original) The method according to claim 7, which further comprises: providing a stove as the appliance; and authorizing children to at least one of turn on the light of the stove and to activate a temperature of the stove between approximately 50° and 60° C. as the minimal user authorization.

Claim 11. (original) The method according to claim 1, which further comprises protecting the appliance against unintentional changes once an authorized user completes at least one of a setting and a programming of the appliance.

Claim 12. (original) The method according to claim 1, which further comprises authorizing changes of the appliance only after a new subsequent identification of an authorized user occurs.

Claim 13. (original) The method according to claim 1, which further comprises activating a childproofing function of the appliance by placement of a predetermined finger of an authorized user.

Claim 14. (original) The method according to claim 13, which further comprises deactivating the childproofing function by reapplication of the predetermined finger of the authorized user.

Claim 15. (original) The method according to claim 1, which further comprises activating a childproofing function of the appliance by placement of a predetermined finger of an authorized user and not running through appliance menus.

Claim 16. (original) The method according to claim 15, which further comprises deactivating the childproofing function by reapplication of the predetermined finger of the authorized user and not running through the appliance menus.

Claim 17. (original) The method according to claim 1, which further comprises performing the biometric recognition with a capacitive measurement of the fingerprint.

Claim 18. (original) The method according to claim 17, which further comprises performing the capacitive measurement of the fingerprint with a semiconductor array.

Claim 19. (original) The method according to claim 17, which further comprises performing the capacitive measurement of the fingerprint with a silicon chip.

Claim 20. (original) The method according to claim 1, which further comprises performing the biometric recognition by optically scanning the user's finger.

Claim 21. (currently amended) The method according to claim 20, which further comprises performing the optical scanning with one of a ~~CCD~~ charge-coupled device (CCD) chip or a row sensor.

Claim 22. (original) The method according to claim 1, which further comprises: centrally monitoring at least one of: control information entry; and at least one of control and monitoring of appliances, at a location in a networked household.

Claim 23. (original) The method according to claim 22, which further comprises at least one of storing and editing

information selected from the group consisting of cost data,

usage information, and consumption information at the

appliance.

Claim 24. (original) The method according to claim 23, which

further comprises at least one of storing and editing

information selected from the group consisting of cost data,

usage information, and consumption information at the

appliance in a central device.

Claim 25. (original) The method according to claim 23, which

further comprises at least one of storing and editing the

information in a multi-dimensional user memory.

Claim 26. (original) The method according to claim 23, which

further comprises outputting the information as at least one

of optical and acoustical information one of during and after

recognition of the user.

Claim 27. (original) The method according to claim 26, which

further comprises outputting the information over a local

network.

Claim 28. (original) The method according to claim 27, which

further comprises at least one of reading the user memory,

editing the memory, and processing the information as data by

an external service provider one of across an interface at the

appliance, over a local network, and over a data line.

Claim 29.   (original) In a household appliance, a device for

entering control information, comprising:

a biometric recognition device for reading a respective user's

fingerprint and supplying an output signal;

an at least partly electronic control connected to said

biometric recognition device, said control receiving said

output signal and having a processor programmed to recognize

the respective user based upon said output signal;

a user memory connected to said control and to said biometric

recognition device, said user memory having a hierarchical

structure assigning a respective user to one of several

authorization levels; and

said processor is programmed to enable at least one of a

predetermined minimum range of functions and a predetermined

minimum range of setting options given at least one of a

failure of a biometric recognition and an operation by an

unknown user.

Claim 30. (original) The device according to claim 29, wherein said user memory has a hierarchical structure assigning a respective user to one of several user levels.

Claim 31. (original) The device according to claim 29, wherein:

said user memory has a hierarchical structure with user levels; and

said processor is programmed to assign a respective user to one of said user levels.

Claim 32. (original) The device according to claim 29, wherein said user memory stores individual supplementary information for each user.

Claim 33. (original) The device according to claim 29, wherein said processor is programmed to transmit control information to at least one of other devices and other appliances.

Claim 34. (original) The device according to claim 29, wherein said processor is to be connected to a local network.